

JUNE 2013



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Merced-Mariposa FSA Updates

Name County FSA Office 2013 COC Nominations and Elections

Office Location:

2926 G Street, Suite 103
Merced, CA 95340-2110

COC elections provide farmers and ranchers the opportunity to represent producers in their community by serving on their local FSA COC. All farmers and ranchers are encouraged to consider running for COC seats. **This year the seats are open for**

Contact Information:

LAA 3 and 4.

Phone (209)722-4119 ext. 2

LAA 3 is the Eastern Merced County with the Western boundary being Highway 99 and the East boundary being contiguous neighboring county lines.

Fax (209)722-0974

Hours:

LAA-4 is all of Mariposa County

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Person nominated should be currently engaged in operating a farm or ranch. A nominee is eligible to be a County FSA Committee member if he or she lives in the LAA and is an eligible voter. County FSA Committee members may not hold positions in certain other farm and commodity organizations, if these positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. Additional information of eligibility to hold office may be obtained at the County FSA Office.

County Committee (COC):

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

Arthur W. Richards, Chair

RoseAnn Serrano, Vice Chair

Simon Vander Woude, Member

Pasquale Palazzo, Member

Jose D.Vazquez, Advisor

- informing farmers of the purpose and provision of the FSA programs
- keeping the State FSA Committee informed of area conditions
- recommending needed changes in farm programs
- participating in county meetings as necessary
- performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

Farm Program Staff:

This program or activity will be conducted on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital

Joe Grillo, CED	status, or disability.
Lydia Swilley, PT	County Committee Election 2013 Calendar:
Gizela Gover, PT	• June 17, 2013 , The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at Http://www.fsa.usda.gov/election .
Lenai Mull, PT	
Tina Frey, PT	• August 1, 2013 , Last day to file nomination forms at the local USDA Service Center.
Farm Loan Staff:	• November 4, 2013 , Ballots mailed to eligible voters.
LaVon Treasure, FLM	• December 2, 2013 , Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.
Aileen Garcia, FLO	
Laura Westerfield, FLOT	• January 1, 2014 , Newly elected county committee members take office.
Phyllis Boyle, PT	

Secretarial Natural Disaster Designations

The following current disaster designations have been declared by the Secretary of Agriculture:

Date Declared: 12/19/2012 Designation Code: S3452

Disaster Description: Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred January 1, 2012, and continuing.

Final Date to Apply: 08/19/2013

Date Declared: 02/27/2013 Designation Code: S3491

Disaster Description: Merced and Madera Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred January 1, 2013, through February 25, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 10/28/2013

Date Declared: 04/24/2013 Designation Code: S3511

Disaster Description: Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred February 26, 2013, through April 22, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 12/24/2013

As a result of these designations, the counties listed are eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers. Some of the eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the cited cause,

- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans,
- Be Unable to obtain credit elsewhere,
- Have adequate security,
- Have multi-peril crop insurance, if available, and
- Meet all other eligibility criteria.

Power of Attorney-- UPDATES!!

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. Please contact your local FSA office and ask for form FSA-211.

Direct Deposits

Don't delay payments; Make sure we have your current banking information on file. Please contact your USDA/FSA office.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).